Committee, Pune; Anjuman Khuddamul Hujjaj, Calcutta; and the Anjuman Khuddamul Hujjaj, Delhi. Uttar Pradesh State Haj Committee has carved out a special programme of orientation through the religious Madrasas (schools) spread throughout the State. It conducted orientation lectures in the months of November-December, 1997.

Maharashtra State Haj Committee also organised a special orientation course for one month in Mumbai by setting up a model of Haram Sharief.

Central Haj Committee, Mumbai prepares Haj guides in Urdu, Hindi and English languages, indicating do's and don'ts. Besides this, press releases and paid advertisements are also issued by the Haj Committee giving valuable guidance to pilgrims.

The Ministry of External Affairs has produced a film titled "Aao Haj Karein", which provides pilgrims with detailed information about Haj rituals; it also contains information about living conditions in Saudi Arabia, and advises pilgrims about safety measures so that they have a safe and successful Haj.

For Haj 99, the Minister will be instructing (all concerned Central and State organisations) to provide comprehensive training/orientation programmes for pilgrims in order to equip them better to complete Haj rituals safely and successfully.

Facilities to Old Haj Pilgrims

931. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the facilities provided to the old and disabled Haj pilgrims at the airports, in the aircraft and in Saudi Arabia and on their return journey by Government and other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below)

Statement

Facilities to old Haj pilgrims

All authorities concerned with Haj management provide special attention to old and disabled pilgrims in India and Saudi Arabia from the time of their embarkation for Haj to their return to india. At the various disembarkation points in India, the State Haj Committees depute volunteers who take special care of old and disabled pilgrims and assist them in the completion of their formalities and their movement to the aircraft. Medical facilities are also available, if required. In the aircraft, the crew makes special arrangements for their boarding and seating.

At the Haj Terminal in Saudi Arabia, both at the arrival and departure of pilgrims, the Indian Consulate arranges for wheel chairs for pilgrims requiring assistance, and facilitates the completion of their immigration and customs formalities.

In Makkah, while allotting accommodation to old and disabled pilgrims, it is ensured that they are given accommodation units on the ground and first floors along with all their family members who had applied for Haj in the same cover. The Building Supervisors pay special attention to their welfare, while mobile medical teams pay regular visit to them. Pilgrims who are blind or have impaired vision have an Assistant attached to them on a full-time basis.

For their journeys to Mina and Arafat particularly old and infirm pilgrims are transported in ambulances.

UN President's proposal for expanding Security Council

932. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President, United Nations General Assembly, has mooted a

proposal for expanding the UN-Security Council, making it more representative by increasing its strength from 15 to 24, including five new permanent members;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the proposal has found favour with the existing permanent members of UNSC, if so, to what extent; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The President of the 51st UNGA Session in 1997, Ambassador Razali had suggested expending the size of the Security Council from 15 to 24, including 5 new permanent members.

(b) Under Razali proposal, the Security Council was to be expanded to include 5 new permanent and 4 new non-permanent members, 5 new permanent members were to include two industrialised states and one developing country each from Asia, Africa and Latin American and the Caribbeans region.

(c) US, UK and France have supported the approach underlying Razali proposal for expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members categories, though there are differences on the issue of numbers in the expanded Council. Russia also supports expansion of permanent members category. China has called for limiting expansion only to non-permanent members category.

(d) The Government supports expansion of permanent as well as non-permanent members category to include developing countries.

Proposal to change Indian Ambassadors/ High Commissioners

933. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners;

(b) whether some Ambassadors/High Commissioners have offered to resign on their own;

(c) if so, the names of such Ambassadors/High Commissioners; and

(d) whether Government have accepted their resignations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Transfers in the normal course are an on-going process.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Ambassador in Laos Dr. S.D. Muni and the High Commissioner in London Shri Salman Haidar have offered their resignation; and

(d) Not yet.

Harrassment to Indians settled abroad

934. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians settled abroad are being attacked and harrassed because of Indian customs being continued by them during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation paid to them by the Governments of concerned countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Indians settled abroad

935. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the Indians settled abroad country-wise; and